

Learn and Serve Homeland Security – MONTANA

Citizen Preparedness Through Youth Leadership (CPTYL)

Abstract

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI), in partnership with the University of Montana, Division of Educational Research and Service (DERS), collaborates with state Disaster and Emergency Services personnel, schools, and community institutions to enhance the safety and security of schools and communities through a Citizen Preparedness Through Youth Leadership CPTYL project. CPTYL addresses the unique homeland security needs of a rural, sparsely-populated state with a high propensity for natural and man-made disasters through a service-learning model.

Approach

CPTYL seeks to engage students and volunteers in service-learning activities that strengthen existing disaster response infrastructures and builds linkages between schools and community-based homeland security initiatives.

-Six pilot sites addressing locally identified needs

Six diverse pilot sites with unique safety and security issues utilize a service-learning model with the aim of building safer communities where youth and community organizations work in partnership.

-School / Community partnerships

Students at each pilot site work in collaboration with community partners to develop an active Citizen Preparedness Council with genuine youth participation.

-Technology training and Geographic Information Systems

Through a partnership with the University of Montana, Division of Educational Research (DERS), students will receive training in Geographic Information Systems which they can apply to local homeland security initiatives.

-Evaluation

With the aim of creating replicable models, the project seeks to understand the influence of these service learning projects on student achievement, community safety and other factors.

Evaluation utilizes the Safe Schools Assessment and Resource Bank (SSARB), developed by the Division of Educational Research and Service at the University of Montana and Sopris West Educational Services. SSARB is a school-wide assessment and resource tool designed to alert school personnel to strengths and areas needing improvement in school safety and climate issues.

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Libby K-12 Schools

- Emergency Services Database Development and GIS
- Active student participation in creating a Citizen Preparedness Council
- Student-led training of neighboring schools and counties in GIS



Lewistown Junior High

- Creating a Citizen Preparedness Council
- School evacuation planning
- Flood Safety Planning utilizing GIS training
- Peer mediation
- Methamphetamine danger project

Plentywood School District

- Border Safety
- Internet Safety
- 72 Hour preparedness
- Natural Hazard Preparedness



Sentinel High School, Missoula

- Sentinel High School Emergency Access During Evacuation and Relocation
- Extended Stay Classroom Kits
- A Multi-Level Approach to Conflict Resolution
- Safe Routes to Russell School
- The Urban Bear Awareness Project
- Internet Safety

Lockwood Elementary, Billings.

- Emergency Service Pamphlets and Web site
- School Crisis Planning
- Citizen Preparedness Council
- Safe Route Planning Utilizing GIS technology.
- 72 hour emergency kits for homebound seniors.

Hardin School District

- Identifying and Creating Designated Emergency Shelters.
- Awareness Brochures
- Building strong community partnerships and working with a Citizen Preparedness Council